

DIRECTOR'S NOTES by Marc T. Braverman, Ph.D.

CONTENTS

- 2 **CYD launches new research on adolescent driving**
- 3 **CYD to host "Research Perspectives 2005"**
- 3 **CYD needs assessment**
- 4 **Carol Rodning: an appreciation**
- 4 **Book review**
- 5 **California High School Exit Exam research study**
- 5 **CYD In Action**
- 6 **ANR Core Issue Grants announced**
- 6 **Upcoming conferences**
- 7 **National 2005 CYFAR Conference, Boston**

"Why buy good luggage? You only use it when you travel."

—Yogi Berra

I suppose I should begin this column with some personal news. This July, I will be leaving UC Davis to take a position at Oregon State University. My new position(s) is(are) in OSU's College of Health and Human Sciences, and will include the titles of Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach, as well as Program Leader for the Family and Community Development Program, Extension Specialist, and Professor of Human Development and Family Sciences. After almost 22 years at UC, this is big news (at least for me, anyway). The decision to leave was a particularly hard one, with lots of considerations both large and small tugging me in the direction of staying here in California, most notably the people I have gotten to know over the years. Ultimately, however, my decision was influenced by a large dose of family factors (since our family has roots in the Pacific Northwest), as well as the

exciting challenges of the new professional position and the new university environment (not to mention moving up to Oregon to escape the rain). In recent weeks I have deeply appreciated the messages I have received from colleagues in UC Cooperative Extension and on the Davis campus, who apparently are trying to make the emotional part of this transition as difficult for me as possible.

Here on the Davis campus, we are busy planning for this transition for the 4-H CYD. Our department has been in contact with the Dean's office and 4-H YD Program Director Carole MacNeil. As of this writing, no administrative decisions have yet been made, but we will keep you posted through available Extension communication channels.

Other personnel changes are occurring at the CYD and the department as well.

(continued on page 2)

CYD welcomes Carrie Matthews

Carrie Matthews is the 4-H Center for Youth Development's new Administrative Assistant. She has been a stay at home mom for the last nine years, and previously worked in banking and office support. She enjoys volunteering at her son's elementary school, gardening, art and music.

Carrie's hours at the CYD will be Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 1:30. Her contact information is (530) 754-8433 (phone) and cmatthews@ucdavis.edu (email).

This month we welcome Carrie Matthews as our new Administrative Assistant (see her introduction on page one). And the Human Development and Family Studies faculty welcomes three new Assistant Professors. First, Katherine Masyn joined us in January from UCLA. Katherine is a research methodologist who specializes in longitudinal models; she has studied patterns of aggression and substance use in young people over time. Second, Adrienne Nishina will join us in January 2006. Adrienne also comes to us from a postdoctoral appointment at UCLA, where she conducts intervention research on peer victimization in junior high and high schools. Finally, Lisa Soederberg Miller will join our faculty in summer 2005. Lisa comes from Brandeis University in Massachusetts, and she studies cognitive processes in older adults.

Finally, congratulations are due to our Graduate Assistant, Aarti Subramaniam, for passing the oral qualifying exam for her Ph.D. in December 2004. With that exam Aarti has advanced to Ph.D. candidacy, and is now working on her dissertation, in which she is examining patterns of participation at a community youth program in rural Yolo County.

I hope things have been lively at your workplace as well!

*Best regards,
Marc Braverman*

CYD launches new research on adolescent driving by Katherine Heck

In collaboration with several Central Valley 4-HYD Advisors and Program Representatives, the CYD is starting a new research project investigating high-risk driving among adolescents. The aim of the research will be to examine adolescents' interpretations of driving-related "risk," their experiences with risk situations, and their opinions about how adolescents' high-risk driving situations can be reduced through program interventions and policies. Extension programs have not, as yet, addressed this important area of adolescent health and safety to any significant extent, but it is an area in which Extension may eventually be able to make an important programmatic contribution.

The first phase of the project will involve focus group interviews of high school students to examine their reflections on their own driving, the driving of their peers, and their

interactions on this topic with parents and other adults. We will also conduct focus group interviews of parents to explore their family's experiences regarding teen driving and the information they need to help guide their adolescents to safer driving experiences. We plan to follow these focus group interviews with a survey of high school seniors about their driving-related experiences and their feedback on driver education programs.

One particularly interesting aspect of this project is that we hope to involve youth in the research as investigators as well as respondents. In recent years, researchers are coming to recognize that teens can be valuable research partners in several respects. They can help to refine topics and questions involving their peer groups, and as interviewers, they can achieve a level of rapport with their same-age respondents that adults may not be able to match.

4-H Center for Youth Development

"The 4-H Center for Youth Development fosters collaborations in research and evaluation among UC Cooperative Extension professionals and UC campus-based scientists that deepen our understanding of youth development in the contexts of family and community."

Hours:
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
3325 Hart Hall (Third Floor)
Department of Human and
Community Development
<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>

Director

Marc T. Braverman, Ph.D.
Adolescent Health Promotion,
Program Evaluation & Educational Research
(530) 752-7003

Specialists

Nicki King, Ed.D.
Cooperative Extension Specialist
(530) 752-3863

Lenna L. Ontai-Grzebik, Ph.D.
Child and Family Development
(530) 752-6410

Richard C. Ponzio, Ph.D.
Science & Technology
(530) 752-8824

Research Associates

Ramona Carlos, M.S.
Associate Researcher
(530) 754-8435

Katherine E. Heck, MPH
Associate Specialist
(530) 754-8755

Aarti Subramaniam, M.A.
Graduate Student Assistant
(530) 754-8856

CYFAR Project

Robyn Caruso, MSW
CYFAR Project Coordinator/Evaluator
(530) 752-2766

Administration

Carrie Matthews
CYD Assistant/Production Coordinator
(530) 754-8433

CYD to host "Research Perspectives 2005," a one-day conference at UC Davis, March 23, 2005

The 4-H Center for Youth Development is pleased to host "Research Perspectives 2005," a one-day conference to be held on March 23, 2005, in 3201 Hart Hall, UC Davis.

The conference is intended to promote the dissemination of topical research to Human Resource county programs of UCCE, and to provide opportunities for networking between UCCE county and campus personnel.

The program includes the following speakers:

**Katherine Heck, M.P.H.,
and Aarti Subramaniam,
M.A.**

4-H Center for Youth Development, UCD
"High school substance use: Comparing rates in California and the nation"

Emilio Ferrer, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology, UCD
"Current research on motivation in high school age youth: What predicts it and why it is important"

Jonathan London, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Youth in Focus, Oakland, CA
"Involving youth in action research: Lessons and voices from the field"

Ann Mastergeorge, Ph.D.

Department of Human and Community Development and M.I.N.D. Institute, UCD
"Prevention and intervention: Linking early development to school readiness"

Nicki King, Ph.D.

Child and Family Specialist, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, UCD
"Examining the California High School Exit Exam and peer tutoring: Can kids help kids?"

The presentations will be followed by a town hall-type meeting that will explore current opportunities for research in the 4-H youth development program, the ways that Advisors can conduct and use applied programmatic research, and the ways that the 4-H CYD can provide leadership and support in this area.

An announcement, with information for registration, was sent to all Advisors and Program Representatives in mid-February.

If you did not receive information and are interested in attending, please contact either Carrie Matthews (cmatthews@ucdavis.edu) or Ramona Carlos (rmcarlos@ucdavis.edu).

CYD needs assessment

The 4-H CYD is planning to conduct an online needs assessment survey later this month for all 4-H Youth Development and Nutrition, Family, & Consumer Sciences advisors. We are seeking feedback on how our services have been used as well as what types of research support activities are most needed. Please keep a look out for our announcement of this survey in the coming weeks!

An appreciation - Professor Carol Rodning, 1948-2005

by Marc Braverman

It is with sadness that I write of the passing of our colleague Dr. Carol Rodning, who died in January after a lengthy illness. Carol was a professor of Human Development at UC Davis, having come from UCLA in 1992. She was also the director of the department's Center for Child and Family Studies, which fostered research, undergraduate and graduate education, and community service on topics related to early childhood. A profile of Carol and her work appeared in the Spring 2001 issue of *CYD Update*. After retiring from UC about a year ago, she continued to live in Davis and was able to spend more time with her three children and three grandchildren.

Carol was an outstanding researcher, a natural teacher, and a very special colleague. Her area of particular expertise was attachment processes in infancy and early childhood, on which she was a leading authority. She was exceedingly generous with her time and her knowledge, and was a mentor to campus faculty, students, and

Extension Advisors. She believed deeply in promoting the real-life applications of research, and she devoted her professional energies to finding ways to make life better for young children. In that sense she was a natural fit with the campus's Extension mission, and she was always pleased and honored on the occasions that we asked her to make presentations to Extension audiences.

I worked on a number of committees and projects with Carol, and I found that she always put people first—no university committees were as important as the people who worked on them; no student assignments were as important as the students themselves. I learned a great deal from her warm and caring style of working with people. I also found her to be particularly expressive and skillful in her speaking, and I invariably enjoyed listening to her analyses and opinions, whether about research topics or campus issues. All of us in Human and Community Development are fortunate for the opportunity we had to know Carol, to work with her, and to learn from her.



Book review

by Nicki King



Educational Equity and Accountability: Paradigms, Policies, and Politics, by Linda Skrla, James Joseph Scheurich, eds., (2004), Routledge Falmer: New York, 291 pages.

This book continues the debate over the value of high-stakes testing that has become such a large part of the debate over equity and accountability in schools recently. It is very significant that the major source of data and discussion in the book are derived from Texas, the apparent source of much of the experience that supports the Bush administration's improvement and accountability policies articulated by the 2002 "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) federal legislation. NCLB policies require that school districts show continuous improvement in meeting the state standards for achievement for each grade level, as well as in

closing the achievement gap between low income and minority students and White and higher-income students.

The book provides a balanced look at the very complex and difficult issues surrounding accountability, equity, and high stakes testing. The editors have made no effort to "stack the deck" of arguments to overwhelmingly support the testing program. Since the volume doesn't end with a powerfully presented conclusion, it forces the reader to do the hard work of deciding – for him or herself – whether high stakes testing systems such as the one used in Texas should be used as the principal means of delivering educational accountability, and whether these systems, now used in a growing number of states, provide more value than harm for students and a useful tool for educators and policymakers.

Research study underway examining the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

Nicki King is working on a study of the impact of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) on African American, Latino, English Learner and Special Education students. Preliminary results suggest that up to 24% of African Americans, 17% of Latinos, 60% of students receiving Special Education Services, and 40% of English Learners may not receive high school diplomas by their scheduled graduation date of Spring, 2006. Not surprisingly, schools with the highest poverty rankings and lower scores on California's Academic Performance Index have the highest percentages of students who have not passed the CAHSEE. Although current research does not suggest that the CAHSEE requirement has resulted in a higher dropout rate, this must continue to be monitored.

Schools are required to provide remediation services for students who fail the exam, and it is likely that summer school will be mandatory in many school districts between the junior and senior year for members of the class of 2006 who have not yet passed the exam. This requirement could pose a hardship for students who need to work, or whose families are migrant workers.

Because of the massive amount of tutoring and remediation that will be required to increase the number of students who pass the exam, some schools have initiated peer tutoring programs, where academically successful students tutor their peers who have not yet passed the exam. The current study plans to follow groups of tutors and tutees to determine whether the peer tutoring is more successful than other remediation methods in helping students to pass the exam, and whether the close contact of academically successful students with students who are struggling to pass the exam results in changed educational or career aspirations for either the tutors or the tutees.

4 - H C Y D I N A C T I O N !

Publication

R. Ponzio, & R. Enfield (June, 2004). From Dewey to doing:

How experiential education theory can be effectively used as a best education practice. In *Best Education Practices (BEPs) for Water Outreach Professionals: Defining BEPs, Refining New Resources and Recommending Future Actions — Symposium Proceedings*. University of

Wisconsin: Environmental Resources Center.

CYD on the road

Marc Braverman, “Overview of the California Tobacco Control Evaluation Center” presentation to the Evaluation Task Force of the California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section. San Francisco, January 20, 2005.

Richard Ponzio was invited to serve as a reviewer for proposals submitted to the Elementary, Secondary and Informal Science Education Division of the National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., March 1 – 4, 2005.

Funding announced for ANR Core Issue Grants Program

ANR's funding decisions for its Core Issue Grants Program were announced in February. Congratulations are due to the following funded projects in Human Resources areas:

Youth Development through Veterinary Science

PI: Martin H. Smith, Assistant Specialist in CE, UC Davis

The project is designed to address improving life skills, science literacy, and agricultural literacy among youth audiences in California through the development and evaluation of curricula in veterinary science.

Evaluating California's Youth Workforce Development Programs

PI: David Campbell, Ph.D., Specialist in CE, UC Davis

This project partners with the California Workforce Investment Board and Employment Development Department to advance knowledge about programs that link youth to jobs in the emerging economy.

Community-Based Childhood Obesity Prevention Program in the Hmong Population of San Joaquin County

PI: Anna Martin, NFCS Advisor, UCCE San Joaquin County

This project is a multi-agency partnership that will identify the health beliefs, behaviors, and lifestyle practices of the Hmong population in relation to diabetes, physical activity, and healthy food preparation.

Building Upon Successful Youth in Governance Activities and Strategies to Strengthen California's 4-HYD Program

PI: Carole MacNeil, Ph.D., Director, 4-H Youth Development Program, UC Davis

This project will study high-quality youth in governance programs in California 4-HYD.

Increasing Nutrition Education Through Parent Support

PI: Lenna Ontai-Grzebik, Ph.D., Assistant Specialist in CE, UC Davis

This project will work on development and testing of a risk assessment tool designed to identify factors known to be linked with childhood obesity.

School-based Nutrition Education: Implementation of a Farm-to-School Program in Selected California Schools

PI: Sheri Zidenberg-Cherr, Ph.D., Specialist in CE, UC Davis

Eat Smart. Play Hard

PI: Patricia Crawford, Specialist in CE, UC Berkeley

Upcoming conferences

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, June 23-26, 2005, Minneapolis, Minnesota
<http://www.aafcs.org/meetings/05/>

Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, April 7-10, 2005, Atlanta, Georgia
<http://www.srkd.org/biennial.html>

American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, April 11-15, 2005, Montreal, Quebec
<http://www.aera.net/>

2005 Priester National Extension Health Conference
April 12-15, 2005, Lexington, Kentucky
<http://www.nnh.org/>

National CYFAR Conference Boston, May 25-27, 2005

Plenary session to include drum and dance performance by
Sonoma County youth
by Robyn Caruso and Marc Braverman

The annual CYFAR Conference will be held May 25-27 in Boston, Massachusetts. This is a popular conference and invariably fills up well in advance, so be sure to register early. The registration fee is \$195 before April 1, and \$250 afterwards. Registration is currently available online at: <https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/cyfar/reg.htm>

The conference location will be the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center on Boston Harbor. The rate for single and double rooms is \$162 per night, plus state and local taxes (the hotel is extending this rate for 3 days before and 3 days after the official meeting dates). To make a room reservation, call the hotel directly at 1-877-SEAPORT, and identify yourself as a CYFAR Conference attendee to receive the conference rate.

The conference features numerous workshops, labs, presentations, and posters. Keynote speakers include James Garbarino from Cornell University, Dante Cicchetti from the University of Rochester, and Pedro Noguera from New York University (and previously from UC Berkeley). Research presentations will be offered by Lisbeth Schorr from Harvard University and Thao Le from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. In addition, pre-conference workshop sessions are offered on Tuesday, May 24.

And there is also an exciting local angle: Youth from the *4-H Bloco Drum and Dance Program*, which is the Sonoma County CYFAR Project directed by Evelyn Conklin-Ginop, have been invited to perform at the Program Showcase on Thursday. This project features creative, multi-cultural drum and dance activities that draw from Brazilian, African, Cuban, and Caribbean influences. The talented and dedicated middle and high school participants perform throughout the year at the San Francisco Carnival and other events. At CYFAR, the performance group will include four dancers and four drummers. Several of these youth have never been out of California or on an airplane. We are honored that they have been invited to perform in this prestigious setting.

For more details about the 2005 CYFAR Conference, please visit the national CYFAR website at: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/announcement.html> or email Robyn Caruso (racaruso@ucdavis.edu).



update

- Marc T. Braverman, Ph.D., Director
- Carrie Matthews, Publications Coordinator

4-H Center for Youth Development
Dept. of Human and Community Development
University of California
One Shields Avenue/3325 Hart Hall
Davis, CA 95616-8523

Phone (530) 754-8433
Fax (530) 754-8440
<http://fourhcyd.ucdavis.edu>